



EMOTIVE STRINGS

Manual



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1 Welcome to EMOTIVE STRINGS

Thank you for purchasing EMOTIVE STRINGS. This document will give you some information about the library, as well as instructions and advice on how to use it.

We hope that you will enjoy using EMOTIVE STRINGS.

1.1 About EMOTIVE STRINGS

EMOTIVE STRINGS is a cinematic string library which focuses on the emotional, melodic and suspense aspects of a composition. By employing full legato phrases, arpeggios and ostinati, the results are highly realistic. You can select different phrases and trigger them at the required pitch from your MIDI keyboard in sync with your host project for real time orchestration.

EMOTIVE STRINGS offers two microphone positions, a wide and narrow Stereo Image setting and two Master EQ presets.

The EMOTIVE STRINGS library contains 175 phrases, which were performed live by a full string orchestra and were recorded with two microphone settings: Stage and Far. In addition to that, EMOTIVE STRINGS features 64 Themes, each of which represents a selection of up to 5 phrases that work well together.

1.2 Manual Conventions

This manual uses particular formatting to point out special facts and to warn you of potential issues. The icons introducing the following notes let you see what kind of information is to be expected:

Whenever this exclamation mark icon appears, you should read the corresponding note carefully and follow the instructions and hints given there if applicable.



This light bulb icon indicates that a note contains useful extra information. This information may often help you to solve a task more efficiently, but does not necessarily apply to the setup or operating system you are using; however, it's always worth a look.

Furthermore, the following formatting is used:

- Text appearing in (drop-down) menus (such as *Open...*, *Save as...* etc.) and paths to locations on your hard drive or other storage devices is printed in *italics*.
 - Text appearing elsewhere (labels of buttons, controls, text next to checkboxes, etc.) is printed in light blue. Whenever you see this formatting applied, you will find the same text appearing somewhere on the screen.
 - Important names and concepts are printed in **bold**.
- Single instructions are introduced by this play button type arrow.
- Results of actions are introduced by this smaller arrow.

2 Using EMOTIVE STRINGS

The EMOTIVE STRINGS instrument is designed to be played using a MIDI keyboard. The loops are triggered and selected by MIDI, allowing for fast orchestral scoring.

Phrases will automatically sync to the master, or host tempo.



A number of select phrases include the slow build-up of tone (attack), which occurs when the player starts bowing the string. Real-life players compensate for the slow attack by playing notes slightly ahead of the tick, and including this in EMOTIVE STRINGS adds to the realism of the performance. For you, this means you need to either play slightly ahead or move MIDI notes ahead of the tick if you feel a phrase sounds too laid back.

Thanks to the high-quality time-stretching algorithm in KONTAKT 5, the phrases in this library can be played at any tempo between 80bpm and 200bpm without any noticeable artifacts.



While it is possible to use the phrases at tempos below 80bpm or above 200bpm, the audio quality may start to lessen noticeably at more extreme settings.

2.1 Phrase Selection and Playback

Up to 10 phrases can be assigned to the keys from C0 to A0 via the user interface (this process is described in section [↑3.2, Theme and Phrase Controls \(SLOTS 1-5 and SLOTS 6-10\)](#)). These key-switches are displayed as red keys in KONTAKT's on-screen keyboard.



The KONTAKT on-screen keyboard displaying the active key-switches (in red) and the trigger keys (in blue).

- **Select the phrase assigned to C0 using your MIDI keyboard** by pressing the C0 MIDI note.
- **Alternatively, select a phrase from the user interface** by clicking on the corresponding note name to the left of the phrase.



The phrase assigned to C0 is selected. Getting ready to select the phrase on the C#0 key

- **Play a phrase** by playing a note.

2.2 Selecting Different Phrase Modes

Depending on the phrase type ([Single Pitch](#), [Melodic](#), [Emotives](#) or [Arpeggios](#)), a great number of phrases are available in variations, called Phrase Modes. These can be selected in real time from your MIDI keyboard. Here is an overview of the phrase types and the variations available.

2.2.1 Single Pitch

Single Pitch phrases give chords and melodies a rhythmic structure for more interesting, lively results. Besides straight and triplet patterns, you'll find a selection of Ostinatos here.

Automatic Divisi

With a Single Pitch phrase selected, EMOTIVE STRINGS automatically distributes voices to the instruments within the string section.



If you play two notes in a phrase, half the instruments in the string section will play each pitch so the number of musicians playing at the same time stays the same. If you play a third simultaneous note, it's automatically assigned to one of the sections.

2.2.2 Melodic

The Mode (Major/Minor) of a great number of **Melodic** phrases can be controlled by velocity. Hitting a key hard will trigger the Minor version of the phrase, while playing notes softly triggers the Major version. This also allows you to control Modes in your audio production software via velocity value:

- **Velocity Range 1-69:** Major phrase is played back.
- **Velocity Range 70-127:** Minor phrase is played back.



Phrases which allow Mode switching are marked accordingly in the Phrase Browser.

Mind Game 2	4/4
Mind Game 3	4/4
Storyteller 1	Maj/Min 4/4
Storyteller 2	Maj/Min 4/4
Storyteller 3	Maj/Min 4/4
Renegades 1	4/4
Renegades 2	4/4
Renegades 3	4/4
Without Borders 1	4/4
Without Borders 2	4/4

Selecting a phrase with Major and Minor Modes

2.2.3 Emotives

Emotives allow you to construct realistic legato melodies and runs in real-time out of phrases which were played legato during recording.

Major and Minor Modes

Emotives can be played in Major and Minor variations, which are selected by means of the green range of keys. Following are three examples.

- Play a C Major chord in the green range of keys. Now every key in the blue range of keys will play a **Major** phrase.



Playing an Emotive in C Major

- Play a D Major chord in the green range of keys. All notes outside the D Major scale are de-activated. Every key in the blue range of keys will play a **Major** phrase.



Only notes within the selected scale are marked blue



While C and F are de-activated in the blue range of the keyboard now, C# and F#, which are part of the D Major scale, are activated.

- Play an E Minor chord in the green range of keys. Now every key in the blue range of keys will play a **Minor** phrase



Emotives in E Minor

Ascending and Descending Modes

In addition to Major and Minor Modes, you can play most Emotives as either ascending or descending phrases.

- **Velocity Range 1-69:** A downwards phrase is played back.

- **Velocity Range 70-127:** An upwards phrase is played back.

2.2.4 Arpeggios

A selection of Arpeggio phrases can be triggered by playing either a Major or Minor chord in the blue range of keys. This includes the first and second inversions of chords:

- ▶ Play an A Minor common chord (A2, C3, E3)
 - ▶ Now play the first inversion (C3, E3, A3)
 - ▶ Then play the second inversion (E3, A3, C4).
- You will hear three distinct Arpeggios for the A Minor chord.

2.3 Controlling the Intensity of Phrases

- ▶ To control the intensity of the phrases in real-time, use the modulation wheel (MIDI controller 1) of your MIDI keyboard, or move the modulation wheel of KONTAKT's on-screen keyboard.
- ▶ To set the intensity to a fixed value, use the **EXPRESSION** slider to the top left of the EMOTIVE STRINGS user interface.



Note that you cannot record automation from this control. Please use a Mod Wheel instead.

3 The EMOTIVE STRINGS User Interface

The EMOTIVE STRINGS user interface allows you to set up the phrases, load preset themes, and alter the sound of the instrument.



The EMOTIVE STRINGS interface, as it appears when first opened.

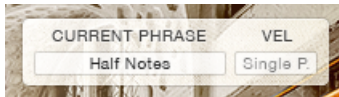
At the top of the Performance view, below the usual KONTAKT Instrument header controls, you will notice two boxes:

- **EXPRESSION**: The Expression indicator to the left displays the current Mod Wheel value (and thus also the intensity level).



The Expression/ModWheel Indicator

- **CURRENT PHRASE** and **VEL**: The box to the right displays the current (or most recently played) phrase in the **CURRENT PHRASE** indicator. The Velocity indicator (labeled **VEL**) displays the velocity mode.



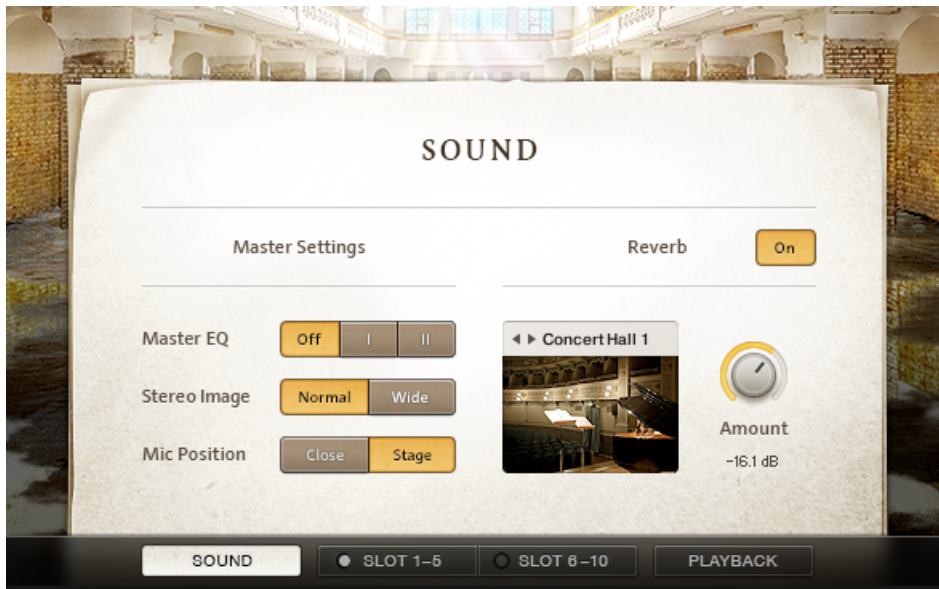
The Current Phrase and Velocity Indicator (Single P. shows that the current phrase does not have Major and Minor variations)

Four tabs at the bottom of the Performance view enable you to change the contents of the central area:

- **SOUND**: Displays the controls that affect the sound of the instrument (audio effects and microphone position).
- **SLOTS 1-5** and **SLOTS 6-10**: Display the patterns that are assigned to the respective key-switches. You can also load patterns from these pages.
- **PLAYBACK**: Displays the controls used to alter the pattern playback behavior.

3.1 The SOUND Page

Click on the **SOUND** Tab to display the Sound page. This page provides controls that you can use to adjust the sound of the EMOTIVE STRINGS phrases to your needs.



The Sound Page

Master Settings

To the left on the Sound page are the [Master Settings](#). These are:

- [Master EQ](#): Use the three buttons to select from 2 different equalizer settings ([I](#) and [II](#)) for the instrument, or to disable the EQ ([Off](#)).
- [Stereo Image](#): Choose either regular ([Normal](#)) or an enhanced ([Wide](#)) stereo width.
- [Mic Position](#): Select the recording distance, either [Close](#) or [Stage](#) microphone positions, by clicking on their respective buttons.



Changing the microphone position will load the new samples and remove the old ones from memory, so some loading time may be required.

Reverb Settings

To the right are the [Reverb](#) controls, which control a convolution reverb effect that can be used to create a greater sense of space for the instrument. The controls and their functions are as follows:

- **On:** The reverb effect can be turned on or off by clicking on the **On** button. The reverb is active when the button glows yellow.
- An impulse response (i.e. the reverb character) can be selected from the dropdown menu. Alternatively, you can cycle through the included impulse responses by using the left and right arrows to the left of the menu. The selected reverb type is displayed in the picture below.
- **Amount:** Use the **Amount** knob to control the output level of the reverb signal.

3.2 Theme and Phrase Controls (SLOTS 1-5 and SLOTS 6-10)

Clicking on the tabs **SLOTS 1-5** and **SLOTS 6-10** will not only display the currently loaded phrases, but will also display the controls that allow you to load different themes and phrases.

3.2.1 The Theme Browser

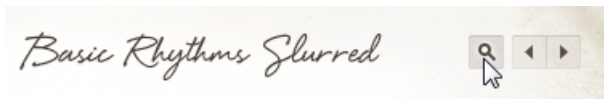
About Themes

Themes are collections of up to 5 related phrases, which usually include a Single Pitch phrase as an intro, as well as an ending note to end an arrangement with. Load a theme and these phrases are assigned to slots 1-5 (key switches C0-E0). Slots 6-10 (key switches F0-A0) **retain their previous state**, so you can keep your favorite phrases loaded while loading themes.

Browsing Themes

To load a preset theme from the **SLOTS 1-5** page:

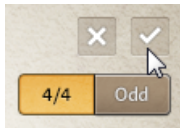
1. Click on the magnifying glass icon to the right of the theme title, this will open the Theme Browser.



- By default, all themes will be displayed in the browser. You can further refine the results by clicking on any of the category buttons at the top of the browser.



- Select a theme by clicking on its name in the browser.
- To load the currently selected theme, click on the Tick button.



Exit the Theme Browser without changing the currently loaded theme or phrases by clicking on the X button to the top right of the browser.

- Alternatively to opening the Browser, you can cycle through the included themes by clicking on the left and right arrows to the right of the magnifying glass.

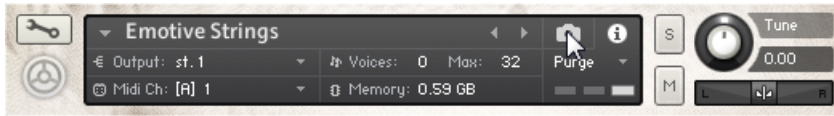


You can save your own themes with KONTAKT's Snapshot feature. Select up to five phrases in Slots 6-10 and save your own theme by creating a snapshot.

Saving your Own Theme

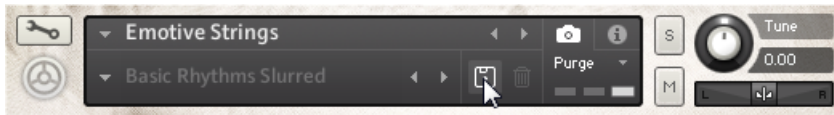
In order to save your own collection of Phrases as a Snapshot:

1. Click the camera icon in the Instrument Header. This will switch the Header to the Snapshot View.



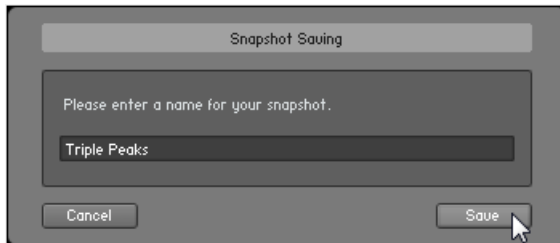
Accessing the Snapshot View

2. Here, click the floppy disk icon to open the Snapshot Saving dialog.



Saving a Snapshot

3. Enter a Snapshot name (e.g. Triple Peaks) and click [Save](#).



Snapshot Saving Dialog

→ The Snapshot is saved and added to the Snapshot Menu.

3.2.2 The Phrase Controls and Browser

A preset Theme may not meet your exact needs, you may wish to change a phrase, or load additional phrases into any of the additional 5 slots.

On the pages accessed by clicking on the tabs [SLOTS 1-5](#) and [SLOTS 6-10](#), you will see the musical notations of the phrases loaded into these slots; to their left is the name of the note to which they are assigned. These musical notations are actually interactive elements:

- To display the information on any phrase, including the name, original tempo and meter information, hover the mouse cursor over the musical notation of the phrase.



Displayed information for the phrase loaded into Slot 1



Slots 6-10 will initially be empty, and display empty musical staves. These are still interactive in the same way as the other notations in slots 1-5.

- To load a phrase into a slot, open the Phrase Browser by clicking on the phrase notation/information.

PHRASES

<None>		Ostinato 3	4/4
Ending Notes - Marcato		Ostinato 4	4/4
Ending Notes - Sustain		Ostinato 5	4/4
Ending Notes Low - Marcato		Ostinato 6	4/4
Half Notes	4/4	Ostinato 7	4/4
4th Notes	4/4	Ostinato 8	4/4
Bulgarian - Figure 1	4/4	Ostinato 9	4/4
Bulgarian - Figure 2	4/4	Ostinato 10	4/4
8th Notes	4/4	Ostinato 11	4/4
4th Triplets	4/4	Ostinato 12	4/4
8th Triplets 1	4/4	Arpeggios 4th Triads Updown	Chord 4/4
8th Triplets 2	4/4	Arpeggios 8th Figure Up	Chord 4/4
8th Triplets 3	4/4	Arpeggios 8th Figure Down	Chord 4/4
8th Triplets 4	4/4	Arpeggios 16th Triads Up	Chord 4/4
Ostinato 1	4/4	Arpeggios 16th Triads Updown	Chord 4/4
Ostinato 2	4/4	Arpeggios 16th Figure Updown	Chord 4/4

The Phrase Browser

The Phrase Browser is similar to the Theme Browser in many ways:

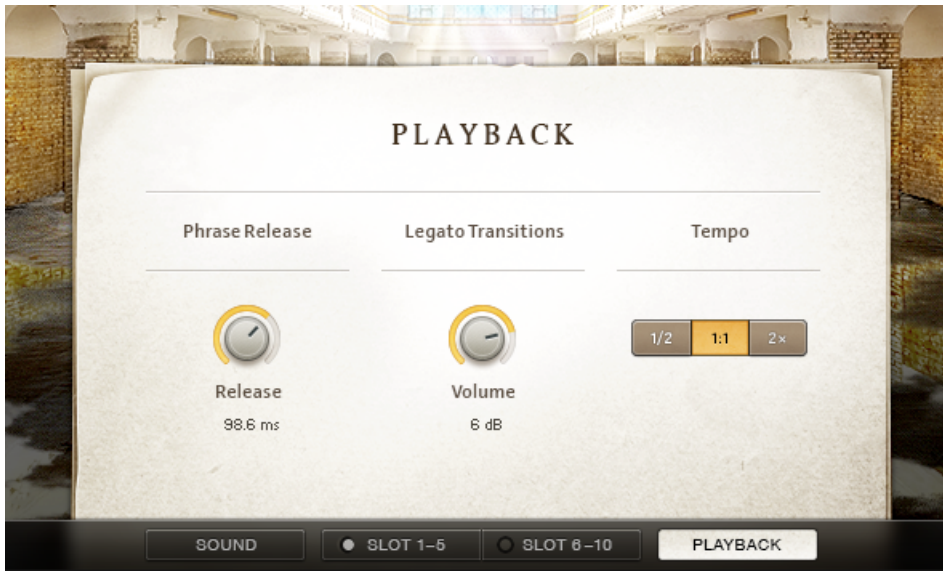
- To the top of the browser are a series of buttons to refine your search.
- To the very top right are the **X** and **Tick** buttons used to exit the browser or load a phrase respectively.
- The body of the browser contains a list of the available phrases.

However, the Phrase Browser has **two noticeable differences**:

- Clicking on a phrase will **display the score for the phrase in the display** box above the browser list (in the above capture, the notation displayed is that of the *Bulgarian Figure 1* phrase).
- Clicking on a phrase will also **play a preview** of the selected phrase.
- Phrases are loaded in the same manner as loading a Theme:
 1. Select the desired Phrase from the list in the Phrase Browser by clicking on its name.
 2. Confirm the selection by clicking the tick button to the top right of the Browser.→ The selected Phrase will now be loaded into the slot you used to access the Phrase Browser.

3.3 The PLAYBACK Page

By clicking on the [PLAYBACK](#) Tab, you will display the Playback page.



The Playback Page

This page contains three settings that affect the way the phrases are played back in the KON-TAKT Instrument:

- **Phrase Release:** This knob controls the fade out time of a phrase
- **Legato Transitions:** This knob controls the volume of the samples masking the transition between two phrases.
- **Tempo:** Here you can select between 3 tempo ratios $1/2$ (Half), $1:1$ (Normal), or $2X$ (Double), which affect the phrase playback speed relative to the master (or host) tempo.

4 Credits

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